



# FACT SHEET

## LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS

### Licensing

Residential facilities that provide alcohol and other drug (AOD) recovery, treatment, and/or detoxification services to adults must be licensed by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). The licensing process is primarily concerned with health and safety issues such as structural safety, fire clearance, food safety, and personnel requirements. Nonresidential programs are not required to be licensed.

Local officials may require use permits, depending on the type of residential facility involved. Licensed residential facilities serving six or fewer residents are exempt from local registration fees, business taxes, and use permit fees.

As of June 30, 2011, there were 825 ADP-licensed facilities in operation.

### Certification of Residential Programs

Certification signifies a program meets a minimum level of service quality and complies with certification standards. Residential programs are not required to be AOD certified, however, certification is considered advantageous in gaining the confidence of potential residents and third party payers.

Certified programs also receive additional training, technical assistance, and recommendations for program improvements. It is important to note that some counties may require providers to

maintain certification as part of their contractual agreement.

ADP's Licensing and Certification Division also certifies residential facilities that are licensed by the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Health Care Services. As of June 30, 2011, there were 522 ADP-certified residential programs in California.

### Certification of Nonresidential Programs

As of June 30, 2011, there were 848 nonresidential programs that are AOD certified in California.

There are an indeterminate number of nonresidential AOD treatment programs operating in the State. ADP identifies only those nonresidential programs which request certification.

### Complaints

ADP investigates all complaints involving AOD licensed and/or certified facilities and/or programs. The Department receives approximately 34 complaints per month, including complaints involving counselors.